

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. Applicant proposes amendment of claim 1. Entry of the amendment earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shiwaku. Favorable reconsideration of this rejection is earnestly solicited.

From the Examiner's comments, the Examiner appears to equate "orthogonal" with "vertical." However, this interpretation is inconsistent with the definitions provided by the present specification.

At page 6, beginning on line 4 of the specification, the meaning of the terms used in the specification are clearly defined. In particular, the specification distinguishes a vertical direction from a horizontal direction. The vertical direction is defined as the direction which the Examiner considers to correspond to the orthogonal direction. For example, the specification states at page 6, lines 10-12, that the cassette 9 is provided with a large number of shelves arranged in a vertical direction. Subsequently, at lines 13-16, the specification distinguishes the vertical direction by describing that the overhead traveling carriage 10 loads and unloads an article in a direction orthogonal to the direction in which the carriage body advances as set forth in the claims.

In addition, the specification discusses the teachings of Shiwaku, although with reference to its priority Japanese Patent Publication No. 3067656. In the description of Shiwaku, the specification clearly defines the vertical direction as the direction in which a hoist with a chuck is

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mounted in each of the overhead traveling carriages so as to deliver and receive articles to and from the stations or buffers.

In order to expedite prosecution, however, applicants propose amendment of claim 1 to change "orthogonal" to read -- horizontal --. Entry of this amendment after final rejection does not raise new issues since "orthogonal" is clearly defined in the specification to mean "horizontal."


For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicant would be desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance; the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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